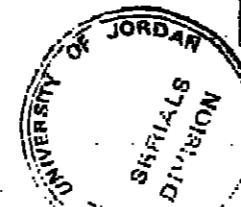


Colombian plane crashes; 107 killed

BOGOTA (AP) — A Colombian passenger jet crashed in flames Monday outside Bogota, killing all 107 people on board, airport officials said. Witnesses said the jet blew up in the air. The chief of the civil aviation authority, Jorge Gómez, and the crew of a Colombian air force jet flying in the same very low altitude at the time, Avianca Airlines Boeing 727-300, were also reported seeing the plane explode before it plummeted to the ground around 7:15 a.m. (1215 GMT). Avianca spokesman Patricia Donati said the plane exploded into a tiny area just south of Bogota, the last, chief of the national police in the city of Cali, 30 kilometers to the west. No one on the ground appeared to have been hurt, Gómez said. Officials at the control tower at El Dorado airport in Bogota said the jet crashed three minutes after taking off for the city of Cali, 30 kilometers to the southwest. It quoted the flight controller as saying the pilot reported everything normal seconds before contact with the plane was lost.



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His Majesty King Hussein Monday addresses Parliament (photo by Yousef Al 'Alian)

Jordan's 11th Parliament begins regular session

King vows to pursue change

By a Jordan Times
Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday opened Jordan's 11th parliament with a pledge to press ahead with democratic changes in the Kingdom and work towards legalizing political parties and limiting the application of martial law.

In his traditional speech from the Throne to the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, the King reviewed Jordan's past and present and vowed that the executive authority would continue other in its quest towards achieving self-reliance for the Kingdom in all spheres.

Underlining that the Nov. 8 general elections, which produced the new 80-member Lower House, were characterized by openness and freedom for the voter and government impartiality and integrity, the King said the democratic process in Jordan had challenged the speculation of "our enemies and the covetous" that our country was on the verge of a dark labyrinth which would lead Jordan into splinter and collapse.

"This, they hoped, would pave the way to substantiating the Jordanian slogan, instead of admitting that the only solution to the Palestinian problem lies in recognizing Palestinian rights in recognizing Palestinian soil," he added.

Addressing the two houses, the Council of Ministers, senior officials, notables, tribal leaders, trade and professional union leaders and other invited guests packing the domed Parliament House, the King outlined the political, economic and social measures and moves adopted by the government.

On the political front, the King reaffirmed Jordan's staunch support for the Palestinian people and their struggle for liberation and independence, and paid tribute to the 23-month-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The revolt, the King said, "enabled the Palestinian people to assert itself and its just cause in a manner that earned international attention unprecedented in the past four decades."

In the speech, broadcast live on Jordanian television and radio, the King, wearing the traditional black and gold military uniform decorated with medals and citations, said his July 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank has had no bearing on the Kingdom's "commitment to support and stand by Palestinian national rights."

Jordan continued to stand by its twin brother, the Arab Palestinian people, in its fair struggle, he added.

He reiterated Jordan's firm belief that an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was the best forum to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"It has become clear to the whole world that the Palestinian leadership has fulfilled, with true commitment, what was required of it to facilitate progress in the peace conference and that Israel is the side that continues to thwart progress," the King said. "We are confident that the brave Palestinian position, supported by a steady and cohesive Arab stand, will continue to expose the Israeli position in a manner that will align the whole international community against the Israeli Taffi accord."

On the internal front, the King told Parliament that the government would work towards limiting martial law and allow political parties to operate the Kingdom — in essence: lifting the ban imposed on all political groupings in 1956.

Abolition of martial law and lifting the ban on political parties figured high among the slogans adopted by many of the 80 deputies in their election campaigns.

In a press conference shortly after the Nov. 8 elections, the King said the government had used martial law provisions only sparingly for political purposes and mostly in cases of threats to national security and public interest. On Monday, he told Parliament that "the government will review the legislations which have become a handicap to the progress of the society... and will also

concentrate on its efforts to give the various courts all the support they need to perform their duties completely, competently and speedily to reduce gradually the need for special courts."

Outlining the course towards lifting the ban on political parties, the King said a royal commission would be formed to draft a national charter, which will contain "the basic general concepts of nationalism and patriotism that will guide the nation and direct it" and "the emergence and activity of political organisations will be based on these concepts and definitions."

He also reaffirmed that the national charter would be presented to the people for a referendum "so that it becomes the product of a comprehensive national decision."

The King said the government was fully committed to fighting "any kind of financial crimes or administrative deficiency," and pointed out that a special committee had already been formed to study the various aspects of "economic criminality in preparation to presenting adequate legislation for coping with this scourge that has to be expunged from our society."

The government will also set up a special authority to keep a close watch and scrutiny over

(Continued on page 3)

Senate meets, elects deputies to Lawzi

By Marjan M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — In accordance with the Royal Decree of Nov. 22, the 40-appointed members of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) were sworn into office Monday morning in the presence of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and his government, the House of Representatives and an estimated 2,500 people attending the first session of the newly-elected Lower House. The senators took an oath to serve and protect the King, country and constitution.

In another vote of hands, senators Bahjat Talhouni and Ahmad Obeidat were elected as first and second deputies to speaker Lawzi.

Lawzi, obviously anxious to allow the Lower House to convene, shortened the first session of the Senate meeting by postponing the election of the legal, financial, administrative and foreign affairs committees of the Senate till the second session of the Upper House.

According to the constitution, senators should be over 40 years old, must have held one or more of the following positions prior to being appointed to the Senate: present or former prime ministers, ministers, ambassadors, ministers plenipotentiary, speakers of the chamber of deputies, presidents and judges of the court of cassation and of the civil and Sharia court of appeal, retired military officers of the rank of Lieutenant-general and above, former deputies and similar personalities.

Lawzi said he looked forward to ensuring the independence of the legislative authority as stipulated in the Constitution and to protect it "with all honesty and faith so that our honoured House can fulfil its duties and practice the role assigned to it by the Constitution."

Lawzi said he looked forward to close cooperation between Lower and Upper Houses as well as a good working relationship between the executive and legislative branches.

(Continued on page 3)



Arar elected House speaker in balloting coloured by politics

By Nermene Mard
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The different political coloums that make up the newly-elected Lower House of Parliament surfaced Monday at its first session to dominate the floor in what could be seen as an insight into the shape of things to come from debates in the House in its future sessions.

While some of the Islamist deputies attached a pledge not to work outside the will of God and Prophet Mohammad to the traditional Constitutional oath of office, the "democratic bloc" displayed their power muscles in swinging results of any balloting by taking a unanimous or at least a majority decision among them-selves.

The first indication of the democratic bloc's might as the holder of balance of power in the House became evident in the race for the House speakership, which was claimed by Sulaiman Arar, a former interior minister, with a clear majority of 44 votes against 36 secured by Yousef Mbaideen, a deceased candidate of the Muslim Brotherhood, which claims control of 32 to 34 votes in the House.

Abdul Badi Gammam, the oldest deputy, presided over the session as acting speaker until the formal election was over.

In the first round of balloting, members of the 16-strong democratic bloc cast their votes in favour of Laih Shbeihat, who managed to secure a total of 14 votes against 31 for Arar and 35

for Mbaideen. Another six votes, would have done the trick for Mbaideen to secure an absolute of 41 votes in the 80-member House, but the apparent choice of some democratic bloc members deprived him of the chance to lead the Muslim Brotherhood's voice.

Although he was short of four votes to match Mbaideen in the first round, Arar was able to maintain a smile of confidence since he was assured of enough democratic bloc votes as well as the support of first-round supporters of Shbeihat to see him through the way across the floor to the speakership podium in the second round of voting.

Arar's confidence was well-founded. In the second round of voting, he secured another 13 votes — clearly from those who voted for Shbeihat in the first round — and won the race.

As Arar announced Arar's victory and invited him to formally take over the speakership chair, loud applause rang out from the balconies of the domed Parliament chamber from people who had been waiting for over six hours to see who would clinch the influential post of speaker and thus signal the tide in Parliament proceedings.

Arar proceeded to read a prepared speech from the speaker's chair.

"I thank His Majesty King Hussein in your name for opening the windows and allowing the warm and rejuvenating breeze to come into our country carrying democracy and public participation," he said in the speech.

(Continued on page 3)

He voiced confidence that the legislative branch would shoulder its share of responsibility in solving the economic challenges facing the country and said that "as we have dealt with challenges in the past and have overcome them we will overcome them in the future."

The majority of the senators in a vote of hands elected senators Khalil Salem, Akram Zaater, Leila Sharaf and Juma Hamad as members of a committee which will prepare the Senate's reply to the speech from the Throne.

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Lawzi said he looked forward to close cooperation between Lower and Upper Houses as well as a good working relationship between the executive and legislative branches.

(Continued on page 3)

Soviet troops seal off Caucasus city

MOSCOW (R) — Troops sealed off a city in the Caucasus mountains after clashes between Georgians and Ossetians in the Soviet Union's newest ethnic trouble spot, local journalists said Monday. The South Ossetians were sheltering in their capital, Tskhinvali, surrounded by Soviet Interior Ministry troops who have been fending off Georgian demonstrators since the weekend, spokesman for both sides said. Ossetian officials in Tskhinvali said 21 people had been hurt in clashes between the two nationalities, but a Georgian journalist, who works for the newspaper Melioraticheskii Gruzii, denied anyone was injured. The violence flared after the regional government council of South Ossetia, an autonomous region within the Republic of Georgia, on Nov. 10 declared republic status for itself in violation of North Ossetia, part of the Russian Federation. "We are uniting with North Ossetia, part of the Russian Federation," said a Communist Party official of the South Ossetian national party headquarters in Tskhinvali. "It is a stand-off between 40,000 and 90,000 Interior Ministry troops who are guarding the city of 40,000 against Georgian demonstrators who started arriving Friday in hundreds of buses and cars."

military sources discounted reports of buildups in mountains overlooking the palace in Baabda, a suburb just east of the capital.

A ranking Muslim officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "There is absolutely no move on the ground to suggest that a collision is imminent."

He said: "The fronts are as they have been since the cease-fire," which took hold on Sept. 22, ending six months of fighting between Aoun's 20,000 troops and the Syrian army.

Shrawi issued a statement at his temporary headquarters in the Bekaa Valley town of Chloma, urging the army to rally behind his legitimate government.

He also told a news conference in the underground bunker of the shell-smashed palace that he was recruiting volunteers to help fight a possible assault.

But

Aoun vowed to do fighting even with "kitchen knives, sticks and stones."

He also told a news conference in the underground bunker of the shell-smashed palace that he was recruiting volunteers to help fight a possible assault.

But

Shrawi said he was placing the

Lebanese nation at an impossible, destructive and reckless option that leads only to the underground shelters... while the presidency has decided to lead the nation out of the death mill to peace," he said.

boy climbed up to display the banned red, white, green and black Palestinian flag.

Meanwhile, an Islamic fundamentalist group Monday praised the killing of Israeli soldiers and called for more ambushes on troops in the third year of the Palestinian uprising.

The call for increasing attacks came in a leaflet issued by the fundamentalist Hamas, and distributed in the West Bank.

Also Monday, Arab reports said that a Palestinian shot and wounded in the neck by Israeli troops during a clash last April died of his injuries in a Cairo hospital.

cased on drafting a more "positive" response.

Foreign Ministry sources said Cairo wanted the PLO to produce some kind of response which would mirror Israel's conditional acceptance of the U.S. formula.

Israel says it will agree to the Baker plan on condition that the PLO is excluded from the talks and the agenda is limited to its own proposal for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories.

Arab diplomats said the PLO's

replies to the original formula demanded written guarantees that it had the right to name the Palestinian delegation and that the talks would have an open agenda.

The PLO had questions and clarifications, and we passed them to Washington. We are still in consultation with both parties and the final response has not been made yet," one source said.

Last week, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak urged the PLO openly for the first time to come up with a positive response.

A Palestinian source said the PLO was working on a new draft and Foreign Ministry sources said Arafat, a frequent visitor to Cairo, was expected shortly in Egypt for further talks.

Egypt asks PLO to redraft response to Baker formula

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt is

urging the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to redraft its response to U.S. proposals for direct Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo after deciding the original reply was incomplete, diplomats and official sources said Monday.

"In Egypt's assessment it was considered incomplete... it needs more work and consultation," an Egyptian Foreign Ministry source told Reuters.

Egypt received Tuesday the PLO's response to a revised five-point formula proposed U.S. Secretary of State James Baker setting out terms for formal face-to-face Palestinian-Israeli talks.

But official sources said Egypt, the main mediator between the PLO and the United States, refused to convey the reply official-

ly to Washington.

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replies to the original formula demanded written guarantees that it had the right to name the Palestinian delegation and that the talks would have an open agenda.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmael Abdul Meguid met the PLO's representative in Cairo, Said Kamal, Monday and an Arab diplomat said the talks fo-

rmed an agenda for the talks to

begin on Wednesday.

Senior Congress officials said

that if the opposition managed to form a government again it would not even last that long.

Many Congress members advo-

cated the party should quietly go into opposition, they said. It could then relax and watch an opposition National Front government struggle to survive and sweep back to power when it collapsed.

Other Congress sources, however, argued that was a dangerous option. Knowing it could not afford to mount another major election campaign soon, the opposition would bend over backwards to stay together, they said.

The haggling among opposition

groups began well before final results were known with the right-wing Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerg-

ing as the likely key to the forma-

tion of a National Front govern-

ment.

Afghan rebels free 2 Soviet prisoners

Rebel rockets kill 18 people in Kabul

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — A rebel rocket attack killed at least 18 people in the Afghan capital Kabul Sunday, the official Bakhtar News Agency said Monday.

Rockets also injured dozens of people and caused "tremendous material losses" in residential areas, a Bakhtar report monitored in Islamabad said.

The report blamed the attack on "Pakistan-backed extremists," a reference to guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government of President Najibullah.

The rebels have frequently rocketed Kabul in recent months.

Meanwhile two Soviet soldiers held captive for more than two years by Afghan rebels were released in their mothers Monday in an emotional ceremony in the Pakistani frontier city of Peshawar.

Soviet Ambassador Victor Yulkin said that a reciprocal

release of 33 prisoners —

13 fighters but

20 Arabs who

were rebels — would

be made on a Kabul

frontier Andrei Lopukh

Viacheslav Kapchuk, both

in tears, hugged and wept

at their mothers as they were

reunited at the headquarters of the Pakistan-based rebel alliance.

Peshawar is less than 80

kilometres from the Afghan

border.

"I'm very happy that I just saw my son and I know that he's coming home," said a tearful Valentine Prokachuk.

Dozens of rebel fighters toting Soviet-made AK-47 assault rifles stood guard in their grey dress uniforms, while Pakistani police formed a security ring around the fortress-like rebel headquarters.

Yulkin described the prisoner release as a "high act of humanitarianism."

Yulkin, Sayed Gailani, acting president of the rebels' self-proclaimed government and representatives of the Pakistan Foreign Ministry and the International Committee of the Red Cross attended the outdoor ceremony under a sunny sky.

Before the rebels, who call themselves Mujahedeen or Islamic holy warriors, released the 20-year-old prisoners they lectured the mothers, who were part of a seven-member private delegation from the Soviet Union.

"I understand that not only

these women are weeping today,

there are probably many more

weeping in the Soviet Union,"

said Farooq Azam, an official of

the Mujahedeen government.

"But let me remind you that thousands of Afghan mothers are crying over the loss of their children," he said.

Gailani said the prisoner release was "ample proof of our good intentions.

"Though the war is not yet over we are releasing two more Soviet prisoners to show our humane motives... in spite of the fact that thousands of our people are held by the Kabul regime and the Soviet Union as prisoners."

He criticized the Soviet Union for continuing to supply the Afghan government after ending its military involvement in February.

In December 1979, the Kremlin sent more than 100,000 combat troops into Afghanistan to replace one Communist government with another and crush a growing insurgency.

Guards from the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia fatally shot two prisoners during the rioting, another source said.

Israel Radio estimated the number of detainees at Khiam, a former Lebanese army barracks, at 400, many of them Shiites. The prisoners include both criminal and guerrilla suspects.

The Israeli army has declined comment on the swap offer published Saturday in the Beirut daily Al Nahar by a group calling itself the Organization for Freeing Palestinian Prisoners.

Published with the statement was a photograph of the identity papers of soldier Isha Saadon, who disappeared last May while hitchhiking home from his base in southern Israel, near the occupied Gaza Strip.

The army issued a statement on Nov. 7 saying officials believed Saadon had been killed by members of the Palestinian Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas, although his body has not been found.

The same day the army announced the capture of several Hamas members suspected of involvement in the attack.

Hizbollah denied Sunday any links with the three men arrested in Spain.

"The Party of God, which categorically denies any links with this subject, confirms that those whose names were published don't have any relations with Hizbollah," a statement by the group said.

Hizbollah said it suspected the allegations were made only to justify "aggressive activities against the committed Muslims in Spain."

French authorities believe a group linked to Hizbollah took in bombing a French mosque that exploded last summer, French diplomats told the newspaper.

In Dakar, Senegal, officials reportedly caught a French embassy employee selling French identity cards to another group of Lebanese. And in Brazzaville, Congo, where the doomed UTA

French agents were

believed to be

Hizbollah agents, the group but have acknowledged contact with the groups.

Hizbollah established network

of operatives in Africa

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — The Shi'ite Muslim extremist group Hizbollah has established a network of operatives in West Africa that may be preparing attacks against Western targets, a U.S. newspaper reported Monday.

Hizbollah agents are active in the Ivory Coast, Senegal, Gabon, and possibly other countries, the Los Angeles Times reported, citing unidentified U.S. and French officials.

As Western intelligence agencies have focused on Libya, Lebanon, Hizbollah may have moved to create an alternative arms network in West Africa as

French authorities believe a group linked to Hizbollah took in bombing a French mosque that exploded last summer, French diplomats told the newspaper.

French authorities believe a group linked to Hizbollah, have claimed to have taken responsibility for the bombing of a French mosque in Dakar, Senegal, non

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Ethiopia, Eritrean rebels invited

Nyerere for mediation — Carter

ATLANTA (AP) — Former President Carter said the Ethiopian government and Eritrean rebels invited former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere to help mediate talks to end 28 years of civil war.

The accord marks the end of preliminary negotiations between the two sides that should lead to substantive talks to stop the war, Carter told the Atlanta Constitution in an interview.

The decision to invite Nyerere to join him as co-chairman of the main talks was the last of 12 items on the agenda for preliminary talks, Carter said during a diplomatic shuttle mission through

French airline flight originated a security breach involved stolen diplomatic cables, the newspaper said.

Most of the French consular officials involved were contract workers who had served in Beirut or had Lebanese connections, French officials said. Several were arrested.

Intelligence officials suspect the agents operate among tens of thousands of Shi'ite Muslim emigres who work in the region. A State Department source told the Times there was no evidence that Iran has sponsored the implantation of the cells.

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Although the preliminary talks in Nairobi almost broke down twice, "both sides got what they wanted by Saturday," Carter said. All that remains is to name observers to the main talks, he said.

Carter said it may be several weeks before a decision is made on the time and place of the talks because the government and Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) delegates must confer with leaders at home.

While the negotiating teams took a break Sunday, Carter flew through Sudan and Ethiopia.

He met for 90 minutes in Khartoum with Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir, whose government will begin preliminary peace talks with rebels in self-imposed exile since May.

Delegates from both sides agreed on most negotiating issues two months ago in Atlanta, and resumed the talks in Nairobi to

conclude the preliminary talks, Carter said.

Carter said he expects Nyerere, who has been traveling in the Far East, to accept the invitation. "He has indicated in the past that he would if the invitation came from both sides, and not just from me," Carter said.

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AMMAN: Dr. Taysir Khadr 600857 Dr. George Salameh 775751 Dr. Abd Alhadi Jaber 610222 Dr. Saleh Mousa 649268 Firsts pharmacy 661111 Fendows pharmacy 775336 Al Azma pharmacy 637055 Nairokli pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Shmeizani pharmacy 637660

IRIN: Dr. Adel Hamid (—) Dr. Adel Hamid 661101 Jordan Television 773111

WEATHER: Fajr (Sunrise) Dala (Dawn) Drifts

It will be fair and winds will be light and variable becoming southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

IRIN: Dr. Adel Hamid (—) Dr. Adel Hamid 661101 Jordan Television 773111

2 Lebanese prisoners killed in Al Khiam

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli-backed militiamen shot and killed two detainees in a South Lebanon prison during a riot by inmates demanding that Shi'ite Muslim militias free them as part of an exchange with Israel, the Haaretz daily reported Monday.

The newspaper quoted military sources as saying supporters of Fatah would gain 65 per cent of the vote, while Muslim fundamentalists would garner 30 per cent. Other voters would go to small left-wing PLO factions, it said.

Haaretz did not name the army

period of self-rule.

Palestinians have balked at accepting the election plan because it does not give the PLO a role in peace talks or lead to independent statehood.

The Haaretz report did not deal with the occupied Gaza Strip, where fundamentalist groups are believed to have more support than in the West Bank.

The report came amid a stalemate in efforts to promote an Israeli plan to hold elections in the two territories in which Palestinians would choose representatives to talk on an interim

basis.

The newspaper quoted the military officers as saying support

for religious groups is expected to grow, as long as peace efforts remain deadlocked.

Some 1.7 Palestinians live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which Israel occupied in the 1967 Middle East war. Palestinians in the two territories have been carrying out an uprising against Israeli occupation for nearly two years.

During the revolt, 616 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis and 150 others have been slain by fellow Arabs as suspected collaborators.

Fatah predicted to win West Bank elections

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli military officers believe PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah movement would win popular elections proposed by Israel in the occupied West Bank, the Haaretz daily reported Monday.

The newspaper quoted military sources as saying supporters of Fatah would gain 65 per cent of the vote, while Muslim fundamentalists would garner 30 per cent. Other voters would go to small left-wing PLO factions, it said.

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Muta expansion to boost student capacity to 5,000

AMMAN (J.T.) — All buildings for the civilian wing at Muta University, near Karak, will be completed by 1991 and enable the university to increase its student capacity to 5,000, according to University President Ali Mahafza.

So far 60 per cent of the buildings have been completed and the students are still taking classes at the local community colleges until work on the premises is finished, Mahafza said in an interview with Sawt Al Shabab Arabic daily.

The civilian wing of the university offers courses in mathematics, computer science, Arabic, English, law and management in addition to a limited number of courses in military training.

Muta University, initially established as a military university, provides training to qualified personnel chosen by the Armed Forces and the Public Security Department (PSD) in much-needed fields, Mahafza said.

When it was opened in 1984, Muta University accepted 300 students in the military wing, and this year a total of 700 were admitted into the first-year

course, he said.

He said that students in the military wing study mainly military-related topics but the door was also open for them to study mechanical and electrical engineering, computer science, physics and mathematics. All subjects are taught in English.

Mahafza said altogether Muta now offers training to 3,500 male and female students in both wings with 200 professors and teachers.

Graduates from the military wing are all absorbed by the Armed Forces or the PSD while the civilian wing graduates qualify people, who serve mostly in the southern regions of the country, according to Mahafza.

Mahafza blamed lack of proper planning for the present unemployment situation in the country. "Students should turn their attention to tourism, archaeology and other fields which the country is in need rather than studying medicine and engineering of which the country has a surplus," he said. Mahafza urged the departments concerned with planning the economy and education in Jordan to take into consideration the real needs of the society and future prospects.

Aid fund seeks to expand services

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Aid Fund (NAF), which was established by Royal Decree in 1986, is trying to expand its services to include remote areas of Jordan and to find foster mothers for abandoned children, according to NAF Director-General Khalil Al Faouzi.

He said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that NAF's teams had begun developing contacts with heads of local communities in remote regions around the country in order to identify the needy families which qualify for such assistance.

The work is being done by teams of social workers employed by NAF, who are also investigating cases of abandoned old people and children or those who lack proper care so that alternate accommodations can be found, according to Al Faouzi. Families taking over the care of abandoned children or old people will be paid by NAF, he added.

At the same time NAF is going ahead with plans to amend existing legislation to cope with the economic and social changes in the country to enable a greater

share of needy people to benefit from the fund's services, Al Faouzi said.

He said this could be done by

earning more funds and contributions for NAF, whose annual capital now stands at around JD 3 million. Coming mostly in contributions from the public and from the treasury.

Al Faouzi said that nearly 10,000 needy families now benefit from the fund's services ranging from monthly allocations reaching up to JD 40 a month per family to rehabilitation projects and private businesses financed by the fund.

NAF, Al Faouzi said, now pays nearly JD 200,000 to needy families on a monthly basis and had so far spent JD 250,000 on 300 projects benefiting the needy.

Other assistance includes providing wheelchairs for handicapped persons and tools for handicraft work for heads of families.

He said that vocational training was also being provided to enable the unemployed heads of needy families to earn a decent living.

Meeting reviews CEHA activities, programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day meeting was opened at the American Regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA), which is operated by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The meeting will review the centre's achievements in 1988-1989 and endorse plans for 1990 and 1991.

The meeting, the second of its kind by CEHA's technical advisory committee, is attended by four permanent CEHA coun-

tries, Jordan, Sudan, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, and one observer each from Iraq and Iran, according to a CEHA official.

The meeting, chaired by the chief of environmental health for the East Mediterranean region, Dr. Islam Sheikha, is also being attended by the WHO's international consultants.

CEHA was established in 1985 by WHO to supervise environmental health activities in 23 countries of the Eastern Mediterranean region.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

INTERIOR MINISTERS MEETING: The Council of Arab Ministers of Interior, which groups 22 the Arab League member countries, will hold a meeting in Cairo Friday to review reports on establishing a pan-Arab security centre and a pan-Arab strategy for combating drugs and ways to improve prisons in the Arab World. According to Akram Nashaat, the council's secretary general, the council will also discuss extradition of criminals, as well as a United Nations-sponsored centre to combat drugs which is to be set up in Cyprus (Petra).

WORKSHOP ON ADOLESCENCE: An educational workshop on guidance of adolescents was held at the Educational Research and Development Centre at the University of Yarmouk. The workshop dealt with the adolescent stage's characteristics, problem (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Al-Farid Foundation.

* An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al-Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.

* A Gem Tree exhibition, by "Latifah Abu Hashman" at the Exhibition Hall of the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILMS

* An Italian film entitled "Ultimo Minuto" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

* A German film entitled "Missa von Bernheim" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

Arab social development ministers to meet in Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a meeting by the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Development due to open in Tunis Dec. 15. The three-day meeting is expected to review 15 different subjects dealing with ways to bolster inter-Arab cooperation and coordination in social development.

The council will also look into means of supporting a special fund set up by the Arab League to boost social work in the Arab World during the coming year, matters related to Arab children, and cooperation with United Nations agencies concerned with improving children's conditions.

APU meeting
Tunis is currently hosting a

meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) designed to promote dialogue among national assemblies of the Arab World.

The two-day meeting, which opened Monday, will discuss public freedoms, human rights, the rights of the handicapped and other topics pertaining to social development.

An Arab League spokesman said that the participants would review working papers from their own countries dealing with these matters, including a paper by the Palestine National Council (PNC) on human rights in occupied Palestine.

The paper outlines Israel's repressive actions against the Arab population in violation of international laws and principles.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

King opens Parliament

(Continued from page 1)

financial auditing, he said.

A major part of the King's address was devoted to the economic situation in Jordan.

Noting that Jordan started the

commercial exploitation of natural gas found at Al Rishieh to run power-generators earlier this year, the King revealed that "a new large well" was discovered in the area, "which raises our hopes to find large gas reserves in the eastern part of the Kingdom."

The authorities are now involved in programmes to exploit the new find and develop it by multiplying the output of gas-generated electricity as well as studying the feasibility of building a pipeline to channel gas from Al Rishieh to Amman, the King said.

Reviewing the broad range of

domestic issues such as water and electricity, agriculture, education, cultural life, health services, infrastructure, the King underlined the major strides that Jordan had made in the past years.

He noted that water and electricity are now reaching 97 per cent of the population and said initial work on the Al Wahda Dam on the Jordanian-Syrian border to exploit the water of Yarmouk River was completed. Jordan is now coordinating with Syria to follow up research and complete the project, "which has now reached the financing stage."

Following are other highlights of the King's speech:

The government remains committed to giving special attention to the Armed Forces and enabling it to defend the Kingdom from external threats.

The government will also spare

no effort to support the various security agencies to ensure "the supremacy of law and order," and assure the citizens "of their safety and protection of their lives and property."

Jordan will continue to uphold

its faith in the principles of human rights, public liberty and the protection of national security.

The liberalisation process that

was launched earlier this year led to "free opinion and the free word, freedom of thought and expression, to prove publicly, and without fear or hesitation, their

sound and presence in our society, press, media and in private and public meetings."

The total income in foreign currency generated from the phosphate, fertiliser and potash resources of Jordan is expected to be \$600 million.

The government is working on laws governing the work of commercial agents and middlemen in the industrial sector as well as other aspects of industry and specifications and measurements. It will encourage the establishment of a society for consumer protection.

Reducing the deficit in the current account in the balance of payment is a priority for the government, which hopes to achieve the goal of a balanced account by 1993.

Jordan's exports have gone up since the beginning of this year and tourism is also witnessing a marked improvement. Controls on imports will continue and encouragement will be given to exports.

The government has been suc-

cessful in rescheduling a large part of its foreign debt repayments for the years 1989 and 1990 and will ensure that foreign debts do not reach levels which the economy cannot service.

The Central Bank of Jordan has been successful in its endeavours to replenish a large part of the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves. The King paid tribute to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and the Emirate of Dubai for their financial "assistance (which) contributed enormously to rectifying the situation and containing the damage."

An institutional framework will be worked out to address poverty and unemployment through setting up productive income-generating projects. A fund will be launched to counsel job seekers and provide them with easy-term loans to start feasible projects.

The administrative efficiency of the government and its various departments will be raised to be compatible with the requirements of development plans. A comprehensive project on administrative reform will be implemented over the next three years.

Arar elected speaker

(Continued from page 1)

activities to ensure proper execution of decisions and the protection of citizens' rights as stipulated by the Constitution.

Arar called upon the House members to work together "to build the spirit of compassion among ourselves to apply the articles of the Constitution and its spirit in all the different fields, including the establishment of political parties and freedom of expression."

Following the election of speaker, the House unanimously selected a 15-member panel to prepare the House's reply to the speech from the Throne. The panel, reflecting all the different political veins in Parliament, included Abdulla Nsour, Ali Al Faqih, Abdul Latif Arapiat, Mohammad Tarawneh, Qassim Obeidat, Jamal Haddad, Mohammad Abu Aleem, Saad

Faqih was elected as first deputy to Arar with 52 votes against Salameh Al Ghwairi's 27 with one ballot declared null and void.

The second deputy speakership was won by Ziad Abu Maftouh, who won 48 votes against 30 votes for Fawzi Shaker Tuaimah; two ballots were blank.

Four deputies competed for the two assistant positions, which were won by Naif Abu Tayeh, 58 votes; Abdul Salm Al Tayeb, 56 votes, while Ibrahim Al Ghababreh got 25 votes and Awni Al Basheer got only 20 votes.

Senate deputy speakers

(Continued from page 1)

the office of the prime minister, other than the current prime minister Sharif Zaid. They are Bahjat Talhouni, who also served as a former senator, Ahmad Lawi, who was also a previous senator and speaker of the Upper House, and Ahmad Obeidat, who previously held the position of chief of the General Intelligence Department.

First woman senator

For the first time in Jordan's history a woman, Laila Sharaf, was appointed as a legislator. Sharaf previously held the position of minister of information.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday meets members of Parliament (Petra photo)

Rumblings in the aisles of Parliament

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Tribal leaders, bearded Muslim men, liberal thinkers, students, army, police, diplomats and the press converged Monday on the domed Parliament building for the convening of Jordan's eleventh Parliament after a 15-month hiatus.

The over-crowded assembly was buzzing with excitement waiting to hear His Majesty King Hussein's speech on the general policies of the country. But that excitement was tempered with exasperation, especially for those who could not find anywhere to sit. A diplomat said, "it is obvious that whoever passed out the invitations overlooked the seating capacity of the Parliament House."

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since the beginning of this year and tourism is also witnessing a marked improvement. Controls on imports will continue and encouragement will be given to exports.

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near the front of the balcony section and almost jumped on it. As he was about to get comfortable, a Parliament official told him the seat was reserved, he refused to budge.

The official screamed: "I will call the police and have you removed." Needles to say the man moved.

Even well-known personalities and diplomats had difficulties finding their seats although sections were reserved for special groups such as diplomats and the press.

At approximately 10:10, the thunder of the 21-gun salute was heard in the Parliament building over the multitude of voices, a signal to the anxious crowd that the King had arrived.

It was a disappointment for many of those who would have liked to watch the ceremonial greeting that the King was given upon his arrival; anyone who dared to leave his seat to go outside the chamber

risked losing the seat, not to mention the hazardous task of manoeuvring through the crowds that thronged the aisles and corridors.

According to witnesses, the King was greeted with the 21-gun salute and a guard of honour with the accompaniment of music played by the armed forces band. Then, he proceeded to the protocol room awaiting word from the secretary-general of Parliament that the chamber was ready for the King to deliver his speech.

At 10:15 the King walked into the assembly hall in full ceremonial uniform to loud applause and cheer. He bowed before the audience and took his place at the podium. In the next 50 minutes, he read out the prepared 39-page Arabic-language speech (29 pages in English) interrupted twice by loud applause and twice by two citizens cheering him and wishing him long life.

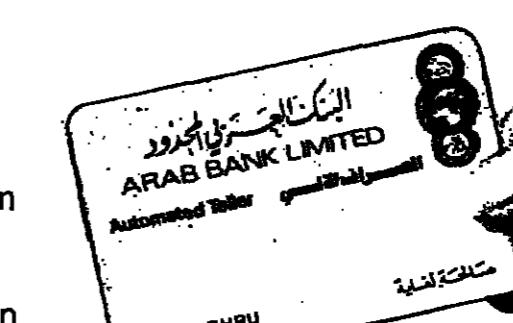


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The scarf affair

By Liliane Landor

LEILA AND FATIMA Achaboun and Samira Saidani are the most talked-about school-girls in France. For two months they have been relegated to their school's library, forbidden to attend classes or take part in any school activity. Since they turned up on the first day of term wearing headscarves, their teachers, supported by the headmaster, have refused to teach them unless the girls remove the offending headgear.

The Gabriel-Havez school in Creil where they live stands in the heart of the town's industrial estate. It's a sad grey prefab, put up 20 years ago as a temporary measure and still servicing the needs of this economically depressed small town some 62km north of Paris. The 825 youngsters who attend the school are mainly children of immigrants of over 25 different nationalities. Today the school finds itself in the midst of a public debate which is shaking the foundations of French politics: some say ethics — has split Mitterrand's Socialist Party down the middle and has put the questions of immigration and integration back on the agenda with a vengeance?

Mr. Cheniere, the school's headmaster, is a practising Catholic of Martinican origin, a freemason whose authoritarian

methods do not endear him to his students. He is adamant that any open manifestation of religious or cultural identity at school goes against the principles of secular state education. To his credit, Cheniere did attempt a conciliatory gesture when he suggested that the three adolescents could wear their scarves at school outside class hours.

The girls insist that it is their fundamental right to wear their scarves at all times, just as some of their fellow students wear skullcaps or the cross. They say they do not understand why their headmaster is so intent on persecuting them when 20 Jewish students do not attend school on Saturdays, a normal part of the school week in France. Confronted with this, Cheniere retorts that there are some differences that are more salient than others. Let them wear their scarves at home, he adds; this school is French and secular.

"The 'Affair of the Scarf', as it has become known, has taken the French media by storm. In the past month, not a day has gone by without national newspapers devoting reams of print to the issue, asking in big headlines, as Le Point put it, 'Should we let Islam colonise our schools?'

The left-leaning weekly Le Nouvel Observateur has invited anthropologists, philosophers of many persuasions, feminists

(mostly French) and Muslim intellectuals (men) to pronounce on their verdicts. Opinion polls have been taken by Le Figaro and L'Evenement du Jeudi, with wildly differing results, readers have been encouraged to write and religious leaders of all shades have been called upon to give the benefit of their wisdom. Today in France, the Koran is the flavour of the day as "specialists" dissect its verses and explain the mysteries of Islam to the lay masses.

Yet it remains that, for the first time in 15 years and since the controversy over abortion, opinions are divided so haphazardly that traditional political alliances have ceased to operate. No sooner had the Minister of Education, Lionel Jospin, stated that the scarves could not be a motive for excluding the girls from school than the teachers' union, traditionally close to the Socialist Party, called him a traitor and 50 of his deputies signed a petition publicly disassociating themselves from his line and asking for his resignation.

They found themselves rubbing shoulders with right-wing MPs, the same who in 1984 organised a million-strong demonstration in support of private schools and for the right of the parents to choose, and who today declare themselves staunch supporters of the state secular education system.

Mme Mitterrand's support of

the girls, in the name of respect of religious cultures within the bounds of secularity, brought an angry reaction from French feminists. Along with four other intellectuals, including Regis Debray, feminist writer Elisabeth Badinter signed an open letter to Mr. Jospin, saying that the scarf is a symbol of Muslim women's oppression and warning him not to capitulate. A compromise on this issue, they wrote, would damage all that the French Republic has stood for since the Revolution. Remarkably, the voice of those primarily concerned by the issue, namely Arab women, has been totally missing.

Les Nanas Bleus, an organisation of women of North African descent, believe that the scarf battle has to be fought. "As Arab feminists of Muslim culture, we believe that fundamentalism in all its forms is dangerous and that the scarf is oppressive," said spokeswoman Souad Benani. "But it should not be used as a pretext to exclude 12- or 13-year-old girls from school when it is precisely these secular schools that should offer them the opportunity to learn, grow and make their own choices."

For her organisation, as well as for SOS Racisme, the mass movement of young French of immigrant descent, this debate hides another agenda. What is really being debated, according to



Fatima and Leila Achaboun, schoolgirls at the centre of the crisis

Hayat Boudjema, vice-president of SOS Racisme, is immigration and the integration of migrants and their children in French society. Already the opposition has united to set up a working group on immigration, with a view to formulating a new bill. Boudjema believes that the opposition parties are settling a score with the Socialist government and using the schoolgirls as a scapegoat.

There's more and more talk about the inability or unwillingness of the North Africans to adapt and conform. "This controversy has been tainted by racism parading as a concern for the

adolescents' welfare," says Boudjema. "The scarves are being used to fan the age-old fear of the Arab which has been dormant — simmering — since the Algerian war."

For her the real issue is the second generation's right to education, but not any old education. "We are still being taught about 'our ancestors, the Gauls'. The history of our countries of origin in Africa, Asia or the Arab world has remained totally obliterated."

Boudjema, who is of Algerian descent, says she was totally shocked when she first heard of

Paris suburb of Montfermeil, the mayor refused to register children of immigrant descent in his town's primary school, declaring that he'd filled his quota of foreign children. Similarly, in the small town of Beaucaire in the South, a like-minded mayor refused to admit 40 new children of North African origin. When forced by the Inspectorate of Education to retract his decision, the good mayor refused them access to the school canteen, controlled by the municipal services. "As far as I'm concerned," he said, "they don't exist" — *Guardian Women*

By Thomas Ginsberg
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Billions of dollars and years of research paid off in 1989 with proof of the universe's basic makeup and important discoveries in space, but some stubborn earthly problems will persist into the 1990s.

AIDS research last year succeeded mainly in illuminating some mysterious aspects of the disease, while ecologists agreed that some man-made environmental changes are inevitable in the next century.

Perhaps the most compelling event this year took place 4.5 billion kilometres from earth. After a 12-year journey, the \$865-million Voyager 2 space probe sent home its electronic impressions of Neptune and its moons, in a finale to its journey around the solar system. It discovered three previously unknown rings and six moons around Neptune, and photographed eruptions on Neptune's biggest moon, Triton.

With that mission complete, Voyager 2 joined its twin, Voyager 1, to search for the edge of the solar system. After their plutonium generators fail in about 25 years, each will drift among the stars, possibly for millions of years, carrying a record of sounds and sights from earth.

Also in 1989, the U.S. space shuttle Atlantis launched the Magellan probe to Venus and the Galileo probe to Jupiter. The Soviet Union sent cosmonauts to re-occupy its Mir space station after a four-month break and reaped new data about Mars before its Phobos II probe was lost. The European space agency put up a star-tracking satellite around earth and the United States sent up an orbiter to study the universe's evolution.

Researchers say huge amounts of pollutants accumulating in the atmosphere appear to be acting like the glass roof of a greenhouse — letting in warming sunlight but preventing heat from escaping.

Although the "greenhouse effect" isn't proven, most scientists agree the planet will warm an average of 1.6 to 4.4 degrees celsius in the 21st century.

The most certain effect will be higher sea levels — because of melting ice and the greater volume of warmer water — that would put many low-lying coastal areas under water.

Back on earth, competing teams of scientists reached a nearly simultaneous conclusion about the fundamental makeup of matter that could help them understand the "big bang," how stars are powered and even whether the universe could someday collapse on itself.

Using a giant atom smasher in the U.S. state of California and another built along the French-Swiss border, researchers concluded that particles of matter can be grouped into three fundamental types, or "families." These families determine how matter is formed.

The conclusion was possible only after completion of the two costly particle accelerators, in which tiny particles are hurled into each other to create collisions that produce Z particles. The super-heavy Z particles decay instantly into the fundamental particles, but until 1989 scientists could not produce enough repetitive collisions to study the decaying Z particles.

One AIDS study last year brought bad but needed news: an immune system battling the AIDS virus actually may hasten its own death by disabling some of its own white blood cells, the body's natural disease fighters. The finding suggested that some types of vaccine actually could help the disease develop.

In another field, a team of

Paleontologists last year came up with a description of the berner-sauraus, thought to be oldest dinosaur. Scientists concluded the "dinosaur-type thing" stood about 2 metres, weighed about 136 kilograms and roamed the Earth some 230 million years ago.

In Nobel Prize work, Thomas Cech and Sidney Altman, both Americans, won the Chemistry prize for discoveries about the

genetic material RNA. American physicist Norman F. Ramsey was given half the physics prize for inventing a method of measuring time based on atomic energy. American Hans G. Dehmelt, a native of Germany, and Wolfgang Paul, of West Germany, shared half of the physics prize for developing precise ways of trapping and studying particles.

One compelling science claim

of 1989 ended up doing little more than expose modern science's egos and high stakes.

Fusion, an atomic reaction that produces much more energy than it consumes, has been pursued for years as the panacea for the world's energy needs. So it was no surprise that scientists Stanley Pons and Martin Fleischmann became sensations overnight when they claimed in March to have

achieved a controlled form of fusion in a glass beaker in their Utah laboratory.

In October, researchers hoping to put the issue to rest confirmed only that some heat was generated in the experiment, though most likely it was from fusion.

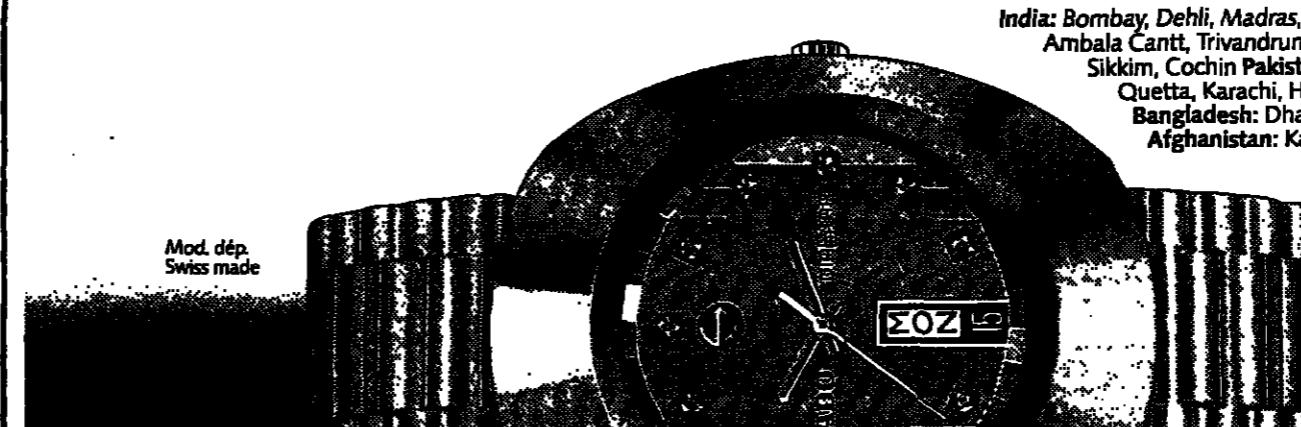
"It is normal when you have a wonderful dream to accept the positive and suppress the negative," one said. "Everyone does it. Scientists are human, too."

Scientists combed the cosmos, but terra remained troubled in 1989

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UAE runs \$500m deficit this year

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (Agencies) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 1989 ran up the same deficit of \$500 million that it sustained in the preceding year, UAE officials announced Monday.

The much delayed 1989 budget was approved by the cabinet Monday and has still to be ratified by the rulers of the seven emirates federated in the UAE, said the officials.

The officials, who declined to be named, said the deficit maintained the same level although the 1989 revenues were higher than the previous year.

The official UAE news agency said revenues were put at 12.84 billion dirhams (\$3.49 billion) as against expenditures of 14.65 billion dirhams (\$3.99 billion).

In 1988, revenues were \$110 million less at 12.42 billion dirhams (\$3.38 billion) while the government spent 14.25 billion dirhams (\$3.85 billion), it added.

The emirates, like other oil-exporting nations, has suffered budget deficits since 1982 when the oil bonanza of 1970s turned sour and oil prices began sliding, reaching their lowest dip in 1986.

When prices improved, the deficit narrowed but remained chronic, with the highest deficit being \$5.5 billion in 1983. The UAE has also been issuing its budgets for the fiscal Jan.-Dec. years months behind schedule. In 1987 the deficit was \$2.9 billion.

The seven emirates making up the UAE — Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Umm

Al Quwain, Ajman, and Fujairah — should pay half their income to the federal budget according to the constitution.

But sources blamed the budget deficit on their failure to do so, saying only Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the two largest of the seven emirates, lived up to their commitments.

The federal authorities have so far succeeded in offsetting a mere 2.5 billion dirhams (\$680 million) of the budget deficit through measures like imposing fees on health and other public services.

There is no taxation in the country.

Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates does not want to accept a binding OPEC quota due to independent oil production programmes by individual emirates and a need for cash to support major projects, Gulf oil industry sources said.

"Oil is a very precious commodity. There should be no restrictions on production," an oil industry executive in the UAE said.

Oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), meeting in Vienna, have tried to agree on an output quota which the UAE will accept.

But conference sources in Vienna said OPEC might have to reach an agreement on quotas for

the first half of 1990 without the participation of the UAE.

Gulf oil industry sources said there were several reasons behind the UAE's hesitancy to join other OPEC members in accepting a production quota.

They said each of the seven emirates comprising the UAE had sovereignty over its oil and mineral reserves and this was a major obstacle to reaching a joint oil policy.

Abu Dhabi, the biggest oil producer in the UAE, has recently changed its long-term oil production philosophy in favour of pumping more in the short-term to acquire cash while the demand for crude is strong, they said.

It is also concerned that a new source of energy could take the place of oil in the medium-term, they said.

Abu Dhabi has plans for major projects to increase output capacity while Dubai, the second biggest UAE producer, is also searching for more oil, industry sources said.

The UAE, along with Kuwait, another big Gulf oil producer, is currently exceeding its OPEC quota, saying it is far too small for its reserves and production capacity.

The semi-official Al Ittihad newspaper based in Abu Dhabi said in a report from Vienna that it expected the UAE to reject a 1.5 million barrels per day (b/d) quota offer, proposed during the current ministerial talks.

It said UAE output was now around 2.6 million b/d, compared with its current quota of 1.094 million b/d.

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Bayern Munich struggles to reassert dominance

LONDON (R): After two decades of largely unbroken success, Bayern Munich's recent form in the West German first division suggests they may find life in the 1990's a little more difficult.

Hit by injuries, the Bavarian club, who won the European Cup in three consecutive years in the mid-1970s and who have taken the league title four times in the last five seasons, continued their poor run in the Bundesliga at the weekend when they were promoted 4-0 by Nuremberg, their heaviest defeat since 1985.

The result prompted midfielder Hans Dornbus to suggest his side needed a quick solution to their problems before the quarter-finals of the European Cup early next year.

"We played like a bunch of schoolkids," Dornbus said, aware that Cologne had taken advantage of Bayern's misfortunes to

snatch a one-point lead at the top after a 2-1 win over Bochum, Bayern slipped to third behind Bayer Leverkusen, two points back of Cologne.

In Italy, defending champions Internazionale have also had recent injury problems and feared the worst when West German striker Juergen Klinsmann was carried off during the 2-1 defeat at Atalanta on Sunday.

With German International captain Lothar Matthaeus already out of action, possibly until Christmas, with a leg injury, Inter manager Giovanni Trapattoni was relieved to learn that Klinsmann's knee injury is not as serious as initially feared. He is likely to be missing for no more than two weeks.

Inter's Italian international stopper Riccardo Ferri, however, is expected to be out for three months with an injury to his right shoulder.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This day is fine for whatever is unique, unusual and progressive so get busy and do those things which are sparkling and new age in dimension.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look for money coming to you from a new project. Put your house in perfect working condition for entertaining.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Don't be upset because a good friend is going away. It is time for you to go on vacation with your family.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't push business matters or you will regret your impatience. Be cautious with the money you spend today.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Go along with what a good friend wants you to do. A brilliant person will show you how to make money.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Accept all kinds of new ideas that will help with home improvements. You can now, take that trip with your family.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be careful not to be critical of friends today. It is important that you do not argue with your mate today.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Accept an invitation from a

friend for a social event. An associate will give you the solution to a business problem.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Go with friends out for the evening. Home will be a good place to meet with influential people.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Join in entertaining as many people as possible at this time. This is your time to economise with money.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Being more enthusiastic about your business matters will be important. Many activities will happen at home.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You will need to study carefully any business projects that happen today. Invite many friends into your home today.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) All sorts of good ideas for business are yours today. Don't let an outside associate disturb your happy home.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will fit very nicely into this New Age and will conduct themselves in such a way that others will respect them highly. Attaining a position of trust and social status in later life, this person may run for public office or hold a high corporate position.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

4 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

DON'T TRUST A POLITICIAN

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♦ 2
♥ Q 10 4 3 2
♦ K 9 5 4
♦ A Q 3
WEST
♦ 9 8 5 3
♥ K J 10 6 4
♦ 7 6
♦ A 10 2
♦ Q 6
♦ 9 6 5 4
♦ K 8 7 2
SOUTH
♦ A 0 7
♥ A K 8 5
♦ 8 7 3
♦ J 10
THE bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1. ♦ Pass 4 ♦
Pass Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: ♦

One of the highlights of the British socialbridge calendar is the annual match between the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Started fifteen years ago by Kofi Markus, the House of Lords had an 8-6 lead going into this year's match. They won again, despite this fine effort by Dr. L. Moonie of the Commons, which won him the Briliancy Prize.

At both tables the contract was four hearts. Sitting South for the

Lords was perhaps their most accomplished player, Lord Lever. The British still use four-card majors, so the opening bid was automatic. Since a jump raise to three hearts would be invitation in their methods, North chose to jump to game.

With nothing to guide him, West found the devilish opening lead of the ten of diamonds! Not surprisingly, declarer called for a low diamond from dummy, and a startled East found his queen had won the trick. A diamond return went to the ace, and East ruffed the diamond continuation to complete the defensive book. Declarer had no way to avoid losing a trick to the king of clubs for down one.

The opening lead was less inspired in the other room. West led a routine top-of-the-hand spade, and declarer had no difficulty in holding his losers to two diamonds and a club.

We have learned that political speeches should be treated with a pinch of salt. Are we going to have to extend this policy to the bridge table as well?

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Czechs strike for reform; Moscow approves changes

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovak workers by the million staged a two-hour strike Monday to press demands for democracy while Moscow signalled approval for the reform progress and pledged not to interfere.

The Soviet Union also condemned the previous hardline leadership in Czechoslovakia, where 10 days of mass street protests have forced two communist party reshuffles in three days, with ousted conservatives being replaced by reformers.

"The Soviet leadership clearly understands, and I would say solemnly declares, that freedom of choice is one of the primary principles of our foreign policy," Andrei Grachev, a senior Soviet official, told a news conference in Rome.

The two-hour strike on Monday started just hours after the second reshuffle in the ruling politburo which ousted three hardliners and brought in at least two reformers. Last Friday, hard-

line party chief Milos Jakes was replaced by Karel Urbanek.

Half a million people marched through Prague during the strike and television showed hundreds of thousands massing in at least seven other major cities including, Bratislava and Brno.

Elsewhere in the East bloc, four radical Hungarian opposition parties claimed they had won the country's first referendum and succeeded in postponing presidential elections due in January until next spring.

In Bulgaria, where old-style leader Todor Zhivkov was ousted after 35 years in power earlier this month, trade unions are demanding the closure of dangerous factories as part of their efforts to speed long-awaited economic reforms.

Deposed King Michael of Romania urged the superpowers to act together to oust Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu, who has firmly set himself against following other East bloc states

along the path of reform.

In Prague, church bells, sirens and car horns sounded as the strike called by Civil Forum took hold. Workers at other 700 factories and enterprises had voted to join the stoppage, from the huge Skoda engineering works and auto plant in Pilzen to the west to the eastern city of Kosice near the Soviet border.

Jiri Kanturek, a leading Civil Forum member, said a Prague rally planned for Monday afternoon was to be the last of the daily protests that began 10 days ago and brought the winds of change blowing across much of Eastern Europe to Czechoslovakia.

Kanturek said it was time for the opposition movement to get down to work. "Today's gathering at the Wenceslas Square will be the last. It's time to work now," he said.

The week-old forum on Sunday presented a seven-point programme calling for a new democratic

constitution, free elections and restoration of a market economy.

New party chief Urbanek drove at dawn from a Central Committee meeting where the reshuffle was carried out to the northwestern town of Kladno and told miners that party officials should act in a more responsible manner than in the past.

Urbanek on Saturday made a broad offer of political dialogue with opponents and admitted the party had become "isolated from the people and the truth." The same day, eight leading dissidents were pardoned in a further concession.

At another mine, at Komorany in north-west Bohemia near the East German border, striking miners heckled senior managers when they promised change and more consultation in future.

Some 500 strikers chanted "we will not betray the students in Prague," and "We want free elections."

day when they went to photograph the plane.

Juana Anderson of the Associated Press, Dayna Smith of the Washington Post and Dayton Hartley of the Detroit Free Press all were held for not having permission to be in the zone of the plane.

Nicaragua denied involvement

El Salvador suspends diplomatic, commercial ties with Nicaragua

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — President Alfredo Cristiani has suspended diplomatic and commercial relations with Nicaragua's Soviet-backed government to protest alleged weapons smuggling to leftist rebels.

Nicaragua denied involvement

in what the Salvadorean government said was an attempt to supply the rebels with two planes of arms.

Also Sunday, police arrested an American woman and said they confiscated 80,000 rounds of ammunition, explosives, detonators and grenades stored in her house and several other locations.

Cristiani told a news conference relations will remain suspended in part to the Nov. 16 massacre of six Jesuit priests, their cook and her daughter at a Roman Catholic University residence. Other Jesuits at the school say witnesses saw army troops enter the residence before the killings. The government has denied responsibility.

"We will demand that the international community and the peoples of the world break relations with this bloody and murderous government until they have punished the assassins of the priests and people of El Salvador," he added.

Both the United States and a succession of U.S.-supported governments here have accused Nicaragua's Sandinista government of providing secret military assistance to the guerrillas in their decade-old war for power. The Sandinistas deny it.

Later, the military explained in a news release that an army patrol had sighted a group of guerrillas near a power transformer on the north west edge of the capital and helicopters and C-47 warplanes chased them as they fled up the slopes of San Salvador Volcano.

The aircraft rocketed and strafed the area for several hours.

In a statement issued in Managua, the Nicaraguan government denied any connection with the two planes. It quoted Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto as saying: "The Salvadorean government should think about the seriousness of the declarations and actions that the news media

are attributing to them, and about the serious implications in the regional peace process."

In Managua, Ortega said Sunday it gives "honor and pride" to the Nicaraguan people that the government "of assassins of priests and religious workers" in El Salvador broke relations with Nicaragua.

He apparently was referring at least in part to the Nov. 16 massacre of six Jesuit priests, their cook and her daughter at a Roman Catholic University residence.

Other Jesuits at the school say witnesses saw army troops enter the residence before the killings. The government has denied responsibility.

"We will demand that the international community and the peoples of the world break relations with this bloody and murderous government until they have punished the assassins of the priests and people of El Salvador," he added.

Saturday's discovery of the arms shipments was the first concrete evidence to back up the Sandinorean accusations.

Cristiani called the leaders of the rebel Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN "puppets of Communist aggression."

COLUMN 8

Baby Shamu celebrates first birthday

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AP) — A four-day party for Baby Shamu ended with the killer whale extinguishing a candle on her birthday cake with a playful squirt. "We've had a pretty exciting weekend here with her," said Thad Lacina, director of animal training for Sea World of Texas. "She's quite a ham." The 1,100-pound (500-kilogramme) whale, who turned one Sunday, is the first Texas-born killer whale and the fifth born in the United States. The others were born at Sea World in California or Florida.

Santa doesn't exist, book says

TYSONS CORNER, Virginia (AP) — The Washington area's largest shopping mall says it goofed in calling Santa Claus to give kids a book that offers a rude awakening. Santa doesn't exist. "It's just so absurd, the irony of it," said Linda Smyth of Vienna, Virginia, a nurse who took her 4-year-old son, Logan to visit St. Nick last week at Tysons Corner Centre. "Here's Santa handing out the one thing saying he doesn't exist." After at least one mother complained, officials at Tysons Corner Centre pulled the book "a peek at Christmas" from Santa's sack and replaced it with stickers and fingerprinting kits. "What can I say?" Tysons General Manager Jim Foster told the Washington Post Sunday. "We screwed up."

Youth's science project is minicollider

DALLAS (AP) — While the U.S. government struggles to begin construction on the superconducting super collider in Texas, a 16-year-old Texas has built two minicolliders in his garage, using rubber bands to help generate electricity. "I've heard of kids putting something together from a kit ... but this is something that requires a lot of motivation," said a spokesman for the forces of Siha-

Sihanouk backs proposal to put Cambodia under U.N. trusteeship

on."

Meanwhile Cambodian guerrillas claimed Monday they had dealt a serious blow to government forces by cutting the main highway linking the national capital of Phnom Penh with two provincial capitals.

The guerrillas blew up 13 strategic bridges last Saturday, cutting off a 25-kilometre stretch of national Highway No. 6 in Kompong Thom province, said a spokesman for the forces of Siha-

Sihanouk said he expected that some Western nations, which have voiced strong reservations about the Khmer Rouge joining any interim government, will back the proposal, but that the Khmer Rouge and its key supporter China would reject the idea.

Sihanouk, a former Cambodian monarch and premier, responded to Western criticisms that he had become an "accomplice" of the Khmer Rouge.

"I don't trust the Khmer Rouge. I know that the Khmer Rouge are capable of violating their promises," he said.

But he said that to expel the Khmer Rouge from any future provisional government, as suggested by France, the United States and others, "is to ensure the continuation of the war. The best way to let the Khmer Rouge

take power is to let the war go

on."

The road crosses the entire country, running north west from Phnom Penh to the Thai border and linking Phnom Penh with the provincial capitals of Kompong Thom and Siem Reap.

The spokesman, Ekk Sereyvath, said an air route now was the government's only way to send supplies to Siem Reap, a relatively large town and a base of military operations for the major battlefields in the north west.

Ek said about 300 guerrillas attacked the highway.

The report could not be immediately confirmed.

Aquino says Marcos ally slipped in

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Corazon Aquino said Monday that Philippine diplomats in the United States issued her archivist cousin a passport without her knowledge, enabling him to slip into the country three years after he was banished.

Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, 54, one of the closest associates of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, slipped into the Philippines last Friday. He had been banished in the 1986 uprising that propelled his first cousin to the presidency.

Cojuangco told reporters Saturday he was issued a passport by the Philippine consulate in Los Angeles. Mrs. Aquino had called off her cousin's passport and those of the Marcos family in 1986 after they went into exile in the United States.

Mrs. Aquino told reporters she met Sunday with Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus and the consul general from Los Angeles, Leonides Caday, to discuss how Cojuangco obtained the passport.

Cojuangco was never informed that a passport was indeed issued to Danding Cojuangco," she

said. "The authority was issued while Secretary Manglapus was out of the country."

Mrs. Aquino said Manglapus accepted responsibility for the oversight but that she had ordered a thorough investigation of the incident.

Cojuangco left the Philippines in February 1986 aboard the same U.S. military aircraft that carried Marcos into exile in Hawaii, where he died on Sept. 28. Mrs. Aquino has refused to allow Marcos to be buried in the Philippines and barred members of his immediate family from returning.

On Saturday, former solicitor Gen. Estelito Mendoza showed reporters a copy of a letter from the Department of Foreign Affairs dated Oct. 19 saying Cojuangco and his family were free to apply for passports in Los Angeles.

Manglapus said the Los Angeles consulate issued the passport on Oct. 26 after being informed by Manila that there was no formal ban against Cojuangco's return.

Cojuangco refused to say how he entered the country. Officials said his name did not appear on

Moscow's Red Army under political attack

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Red Army, officially touted as the brave defender of the motherland, came under attack Sunday from a group that charged abuse, nepotism, hazing and poor living conditions are ruining the troops.

About 200 Soviets, some wearing gray wool army coats, huddled in an icy parking lot in southwest Moscow for a demonstration sponsored by Shiekh, an organization formed last month to defend the soldiers from the army itself.

He said perestroika could be doomed by a military coup engineered by "Brezhnev-era generals and marshals," referring to the rule of Leonid Brezhnev

from 1964-1982.

Maria I. Kirbasova, who said she heads a committee of soldiers' mothers, told the crowd conscripts are afraid to speak out when they are beaten or sexually assaulted.

But the Soviet press has cast a different picture, highlighting such problems as:

— Murders and torture of soldiers. Lt. A. Slusov wrote in the literary journal *Znamya* in August that a soldier becomes a "grandfather" in his second year of service and takes on the role of a "teacher."

— A quarter of the soldiers drafted this spring had police records.

and ready to be independent and hardworking after they are discharged. Soldiers have the full rights of every citizen to seek justice, he said.

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Global weather

(major world cities)

	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
AMSTERDAM	04 39 09 48 Rain						
ATHENS	10 50 16 51 Cloudy						
BANGKOK	23 73 35 91 Cloud						
BARBADOS/PUERTO RICO	17 82 28 62 Cloudy						
CHICAGO	04 40 10 50 Cloudy						
COPENHAGEN	02 29 04 30 Cloudy						
FRANKFURT	00 22 02 32 38 Cloudy						
GENEVA	00 27 03 37 Cloudy						
HONG KONG	21 70 24 76 Cloud						
ISRAEL	03 35 03 35 74 Clear						
LONDON	02 35 02 35 74 Clear	02 35 02 35 74 Clear	02 35 02 35 74 Clear	02 35 02 35			